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## **The Role of Education Psychology in Developing Lessons in CD Formats Using Proverbs in Essay Writing of Primary School Students in Malaysia**

Suppiah Nachiappan, Seri Lanang Jaya Hj. Rohani \*

Sultan Idris Education University,  
35900 Tanjong Malim, Perak, Malaysia

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### **Abstract**

Composition writing is an important component in teaching and learning process of Bahasa Malaysia (Malaysian official language) in primary schools. Students write essays based on several formats. Students' essays lead to contents and elaborations. Students are giving less attention in the usage of proverbs while writing essays as a whole. In this research, a total of 82 script samples were chosen to be analyzed. The research samples were chosen from Standard 5 students out of three schools in Chemor, Perak. The Hermeneutic Pedagogical approach is used in analyzing the essays to identify the existence of proverbs in them. The findings through Hermeneutic Pedagogical approach give interpretation (metatexts) that there is existence of proverbs and information processing experienced by students both consciously and subconsciously while writing essays. Research findings suggest that students from national schools were using more proverbs while writing essays compared to those from national type schools (Chinese/Tamil). Information processing experienced by students since primary schools through formal and informal education helps students in using proverbs in their essays. Compiled together with this research is a set of CD's containing a variety of lessons which uses proverbs as an aid to teachers to carry of effective teaching. Research shows that students were able to write good essays by using proverbs throughout the process of essay writing.

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*Keywords: Proverbs; Information Processing*

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### **1. Introduction**

The teaching and learning of Malay language in primary schools has biasness that is, most teachers teach the language components of comprehension, vocabulary, reading and writing essays and others individually without continuum daily. This research is trying to focus on creating five lesson samples in CD format to be taught in continuum for National School and five sets of lessons for Standard 5 students of National Type School.

## 2. Problem Statement

The teaching and learning process of Malay Language in primary schools more or less lacks from the usage of proverbs in the process of writing essays. The teachers usually teach the language components like comprehension, vocabulary, reading, composition and others separately without emphasising the usage of proverbs in essays.

Educational psychology element is an important element which helps students to elicit information from their long term memory to be written in essays. Teachers' teaching which is based on limited usage of proverbs and these elements are given less priority in encouraging students to use them during essays writing.

In essay writing, few components are analysed and looked into for marking purposes. These include the format, content delivery, language skills in developing ideas and elaboration in essays. When it comes to language matter, students' skill in utilising the language to deliver and elaborate their ideas effectively is taken into account. Effective essay writing depends on language elements like imagery writing, proverbs, rhymes, emotion, local beliefs, and societal values represented by students. This research will outline the latest language elements which includes the presence of proverbs comparatively in three primary schools in Chemor, Perak.

The usage of proverbs is seen as capable to produce good composition because it is still considered as an important component in essay writing by language teachers, especially while marking students' works. Researchers will give reasons why these language elements should be stressed in the teaching and learning process in schools provided their research show less usage of the elements in schools. The writing of these language elements could somehow give identity or recognition to the local community at which the students reside for instance, Chemor town primary school students' ability who could relate the living style of the local community with the sense of tradition and history in writing essays. The writing of these language elements is seen as a way to uphold the tradition and culture which can improve students' writing based on their tradition and culture.

This research will be focusing on the making of five lesson plans on teaching with synchrony in CD format for national schools and five lesson plans for Standard 5 students of national type school on the basis of proverbs usage in essay writing.

## 3. Research Rationale

This research is to evaluate the usage of proverbs in essay writing as an important component in enhancing the quality of proverbs-based essays. Students are still unable to write excellent essays through the teaching and learning of Malay language. Most of the essays written by students are lacking with proper language skills and relevant proverbs. This means, the knowledge through teaching and learning Malay language since Standard 1 till Standard 4 is not completely stored in students' long term memory.

Students' weak performance in using proverbs while writing essays can be assumed as a learning problem and teachers should take proper action. Besides, not all students are able to master the technique of writing effective essays which involve the correct selection of proverbs in writing essays. According to Juriah Long (1993), while students are writing essays, students will always come across with internal conflict as the acquisition process of language depends on the cognitive and linguistics processes.

## 4. Research Objective

This research aims to find out the level of proverbs usage in essay writing among Standard 5 students in three primary schools namely, SK Hj Mahmud, SJK(C) Pei Ching and SJK(T) Klebang, Chemor. The usage of proverbs among Standard 5 students are studied comparatively in all three schools. The analysis is carried out using Hermeneutic Pedagogical Approach either interpretive or students' essay interpretation based on four objectives:

- i) To analysis the elements of educational psychology while students are writing essays.
- ii) To identify the presence of language elements, which are the proverbs in the essays of students from both national school and national type schools.
- iii) To analysis comparatively the similarities and differences in the presence of proverbs in the schools involved in the research.
- iv) To produce five sample of lesson plans in Interactive CD format for national schools and five sample of lesson plans in CD format for national type schools which encompass the effective usage of proverbs for primary school students.

## 5. Research Questions

Few questions are proposed as to study the objectives of the research:

- i) What are the educational psychology elements that students can elaborate while writing essays?
- ii) What are the proverbs that can be identified in students' essays from both national and national type schools?
- iii) How is the finding on similarities and differences in the schools involved in the research comparatively?
- iv) How to produce five sample of lesson plans in Interactive CD format for national schools and five sample of lesson plans in CD format for National Type schools on the effective usage of proverbs for primary school students?

## 6. Research Importance

According to Suppiah (2003), based on the previous research analysis in Malaysia, not many Malay language teachers who have discussed on how students think and express their ideas, contents, facts and details when answering essay questions. Essay writing in the context of cognitive, language and linguistics should be viewed as having synchrony in information procession which is experienced by students since their earlier days. All knowledge taught by language teachers which include the usage of proverbs should be seen as literary heritage. For instance, the usage of proverbs, idioms and rhymes are actually reflecting the value of the language and the civilization of the race upholding it. So, language styles should be taught consistently in order to instil it in students during the whole session of teaching and learning from primary schools till secondary schools.

The usage of language styles in composition is seen as a catalyst in the process of enhancing as well as improving an idea towards making essay. This research will also allow the researchers to see how far the students are using the proverbs in enhancing and strengthening their contents and elaboration during writing essays. Meanwhile, few Interactive CDs are been set up to help primary school teachers, especially for those who are teaching Malay language to teach the subject effectively.

Based on the rationales, this research should be carried out to know about the essay writing based on the usage of proverbs. Next, Hermeneutic Pedagogical interpretation is done based on the written and implied matter in essay writing and in conscious and subconscious state. Hermeneutic Pedagogical Approach is assumed as suitable in analysing the essays because it can study the aspects which are implied and complex, besides the relation with the aspects of experience of psychology, emotion and socio-culture in students' writing, which is said as "text" (Loganathan, 1992).

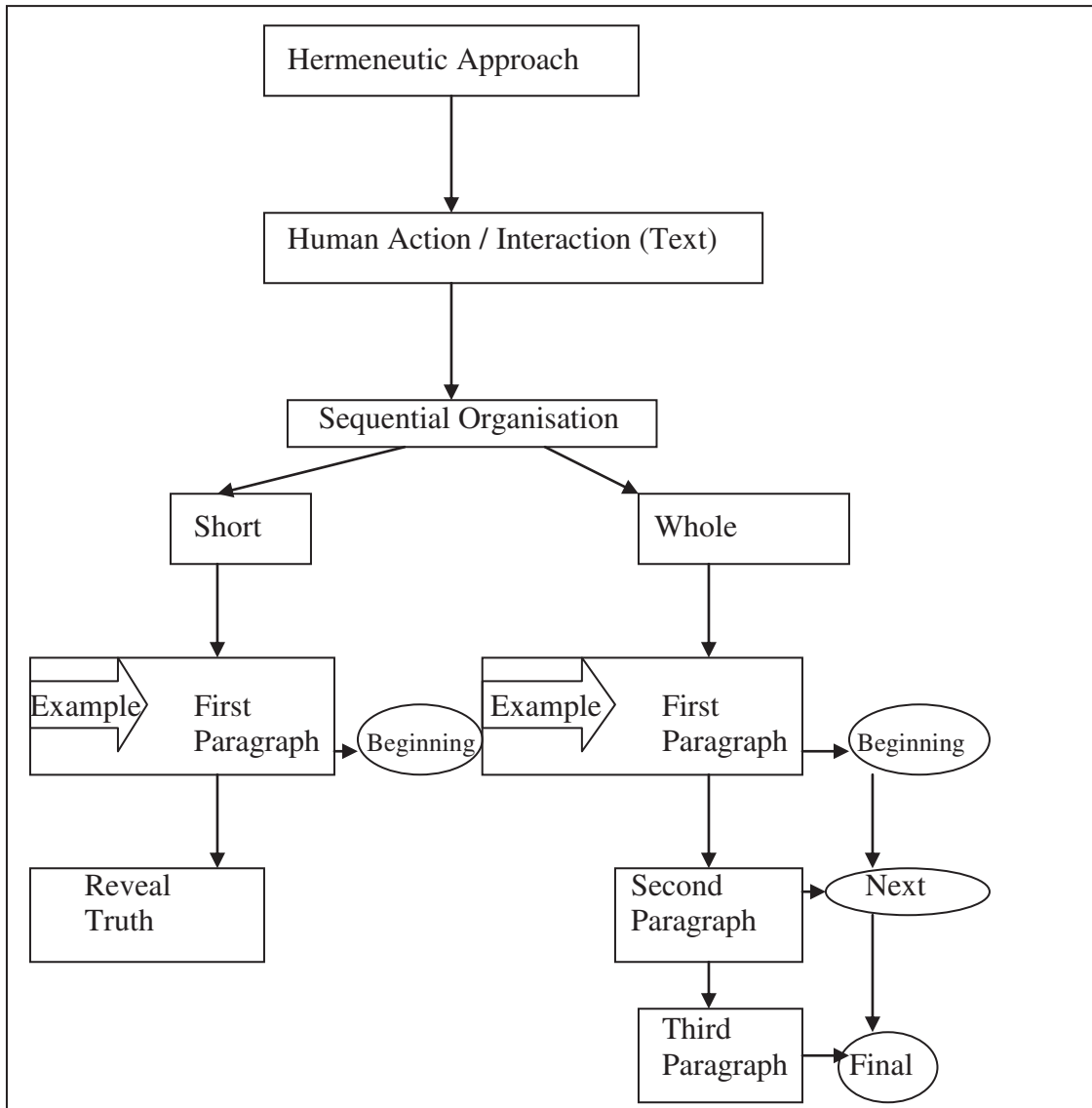
## 7. Study Limitation

This study is limited in three schools only around the town of Chemor, Perak. This research is evaluating the essays which contain proverbs by Standard 5 students only. The tendency of using proverbs is studied to identify how far the students are able to apply it in writing their essays. This research could not be made as a strong foundation to summarise the usage of proverbs in students' essays nationwide due to the limitations mentioned earlier. However, the early steps involving these three schools should provide an early picture if the research is going to be done throughout Malaysia.

## 8. Study Methodology

The philosophy and theory of Hermeneutic Pedagogical is studied to understand how Standard 5 students use proverbs in writing essays. Besides, the idea of how far the information processing can help students to elicit information and write essays using proverbs is also studied. In this study, conception framework is consisting of Hermeneutic Pedagogical Theory, language styles and information processing in essays. Following is the brief explanation on the philosophy and theory which outline this study.

Hermeneutic Pedagogical Approach is considered as a system which reveals human action and interaction that has orderly organisation and historiography features. Every pattern which contributes to the relation with the short or comprehensive organisation starts from early till the end of the text. The Diagram 1 will explain in details as follow.



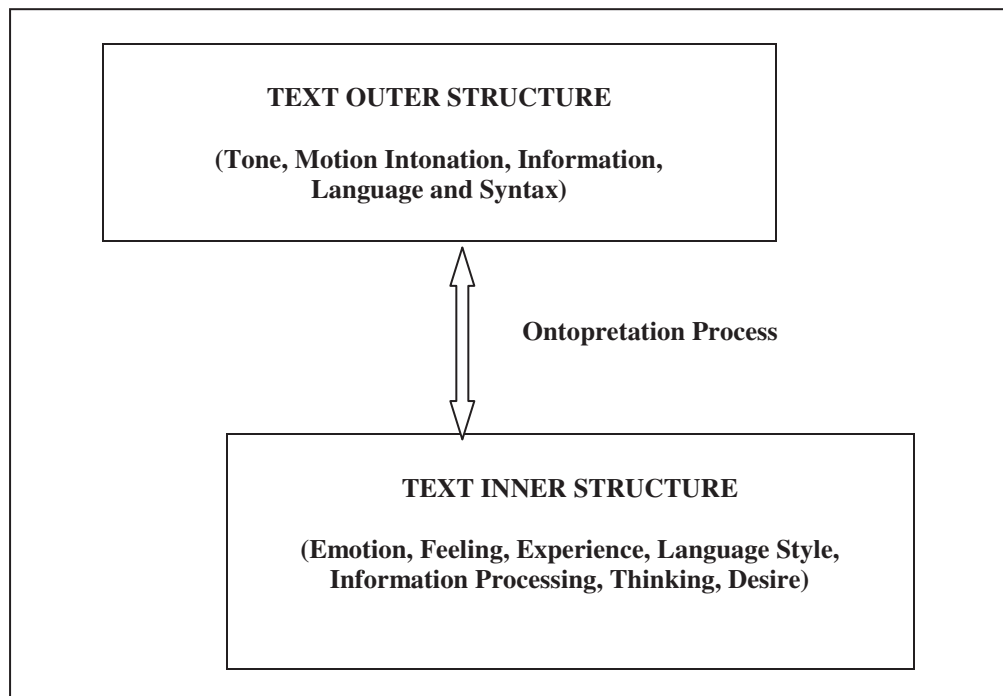
**Diagram 1:** The Action of Hermeneutic Approach towards Studied Text to Reveal Truth

## 9. Features of Hermeneutic Analysis

### Ontopretation Process

When examining a text, ontopretation process happens and gets understanding from the text. After going through the aspects studied in the text, Ontopretation recurs till the text could be comprehended and interpreted fully. Finally, the researchers could detect and understand the implied meaning in the studied text and mentioned as lumens by Loganathan (1992, 1996). By this moment, researchers could come out from any ambiguity or ignorance (ontoenigma) about text and then, attain the level of understanding and a precise knowledge about the studied text. According to the method of Hermeneutic Pedagogy, the interpretation of original text from the outer structure to

inner structure is called ontopretation. Diagram 1 shows the ontopretation process which helps interpreting original text to metatext known as lumens.



**Diagram 2:** Process of Ontopretation

## 10. Procedure of Hermeneutic Analysis

### Text

According to the view of Hermeneutic, text has written and implied contents which could be interpreted. It portrays features of social, culture, past and present experience, feelings and knowledge within the writer which come in an orderly contents known as episodes.

When an essay text is studied, the researcher should have the traits of openness so as to avoid any prejudices or biasness. A researcher who is interpreting essays would encounter the state of ontoenigma (ambiguity or less understand) with the contents of the studied text. So, many questions will arise and asked by the researcher towards understanding the original text. In this situation, researchers will feel vague and try to find explanation to understand the text. For researcher that is science positivistic oriented, this ambiguity state would be rejected and only logical aspects will be accepted. Upon reading an essay, the researcher could detect the outer structure and the inner structure of the text.

The combination of these two structures will help a researcher to go through the state of ontoenigma (ambiguity) towards the state of ontopretation, which is the comprehension of the essay text. An essay text has many implied meanings which could not be perceived by reading only once. A deep analysis on subconscious elements implied in the essay will enable the researcher to attain meaningful understanding. This understanding is the metatext which can give meaning to texts or students' essays.

## 11. Research Findings

In research findings, the essays from three schools, which are SK Hj. Mahmud, Chemor, SJK(C) Pei Ching, Chemor, and SJK(T) Klebang, Chemor are analyzed in terms of the presence of proverbs. In the analysis, students from SK Hj. Mahmud can write better essays than students from the other two schools. Hermeneutic Analysis interpretation is used to interpret the presence of proverbs in the essays.

From the analysis, it can be concluded that Standard 5 students from SK Hj. Mahmud, Chemor can make use of several proverbs while writing essays effectively. Their language skills manage to give impact on producing better essays. The usage of proverbs in essays by the students from SK Hj. Mahmud shows variation compared to the other two schools' students. Students from SK Hj. Mahmud are able to write essays using proverbs effectively.

Through the studies done on all these three schools, which are SK Hj. Mahmud, Chemor, SJK(C) Pei Ching, Chemor, and SJK(T) Klebang, Chemor in order to see the level of proverbs usage, what could be said is that there are some errors and need improvisation.

### **Comparison on Eliciting Proverbs between National Schools and National Type Schools**

For National Schools, language use in essays is in good level so as the skills and knowledge in using proverbs in their essays. This is because the students from National Schools use more Malay language in their daily conversation. Besides, National School students receive proper exposure on the usage of Malay language even from their home.

The usage of Malay language among Standard 5 students from National Type Schools is seen to be in moderate level. These students can still improve their knowledge through the exposure from their teachers as well as from the guidance from their parents on the students' learning problems especially in Malay language. This could help them to communicate and apply it in examination.

Apart from that, the possibility of using less Malay language at home or surrounding will cause these students to be less proficient when it comes to the mastery of Malay language. Parents' concern is a must as it is a way for Chinese and Indian students to master Malay language. Diagram 6 shows the comparison of proverbs elicitation between National Schools and National Type Schools.

Taking the cause of improving students' skill into account, the role of teachers and parents is vital. More exposure should be given to these students in order to enhance their knowledge, especially in writing which involves the usage of proverbs in essays.

Analysis that could be done through writing essays is to see how far the skills possessed by students in terms of using language especially proverbs. Based on the research overall, Standard 5 students need to harness their skills and language mastery to enable them to apply the proverbs into their essays during examination.

However, students' weakness is towards the mastery of correct language when writing essays and the usage of proverbs which is lacking and not appropriate with the meaning in context. Even though there are good essays, these students are still to be guided so that they could improve the quality of their essays with the essence of proverbs.

Overall, the process of writing and elicit information more or less stunted as the students are less exposed with information storing on proverbs since earlier days, more so during formal education from Standard 1 till Standard 5. The tendency of using proverbs is less outstanding in all three studied schools due to the school education system which gives less emphasis on the usage of proverbs. A suggestion for this would be to stress on the usage of proverbs during teaching and learning process especially in Malay language subject since Standard 1. Diagram 7 shows the process of writing and eliciting information which affects students' subconscious experience.

So as to help students, teachers should give more exposure and give more practices on how to write better essays using proverbs to strengthen the language heritage treasure. Besides, parents should also encourage their children to talk more using the language as well as using proverbs while conversing at home. Due to limited usage of proverbs in writing and in very low state, primary school students should be given fresh injection in appreciating proverbs and inserting them in writing essays. The students are still weak to match and use appropriate proverbs in their writings. There are a lot of proverbs that can be used by students to make their writing better and interesting. Diagram 8 shows the teachers' roles in teaching by giving more attention towards the usage of proverbs and otherwise.

Hence, students can improve their language skills if teachers and parents play their role effectively. Parents and teachers' concern is vital in children development whether in studies or in life as a whole. So, to help in the effectiveness of teaching and learning process using proverbs in students' essays, the researchers recommend the Interactive CD as a multimedia tool which can attract students towards teachers' teaching. In this research, five samples of lesson plans in CD by continuity for Standard 5 students of National Schools and five sample of lesson plans in CD by continuity for Standard 5 National Type Schools, is compiled together and this is based on the usage of proverbs in essay writing.

Essay writing lesson based in CD centralized on five activities as drilling practice for each CD separately from this research text. The CD formation is pursuant to consolidation activity towards clear understanding by using

Hermeneutic Pedagogical analysis in interpreting the usage of proverbs in essays. The role of educational psychology is irrefutable in information processing which is pinned in students; subliminal state. By using educational psychology, teachers should make sure students are involved in the learning process, especially in the usage of proverbs while writing essays. Learning through accommodating proverbs in essay writing process by students is simple if students are encouraged and motivated especially while teachers are teaching in classrooms.

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